

## 'Santander Ayuda' awards 100,000 euros to projects related to disability, health, and ageing



- Fundación Capacis, Coopera ONG, APCA or Aspace Navarra, are among the 20 beneficiary organizations.
- This call for Disability, health and aging supports 20 social projects at the local level, aimed at promoting autonomy and care for aging, disability, and disease.
- 2.2 million euros, 440 social projects and over 260,000 people in vulnerable situations have benefited from this programme in five years.
- More information on the twenty awarded organizations can be found at the following link:

[https://www.fundacionbancosantander.com/content/dam/fundacion-banco-santander/es/documentos-/accion-social/santander-social-tech/Resolucion\\_Comite\\_SantanderAyuda\\_21\\_Convocatoria\\_Dependencia.pdf](https://www.fundacionbancosantander.com/content/dam/fundacion-banco-santander/es/documentos-/accion-social/santander-social-tech/Resolucion_Comite_SantanderAyuda_21_Convocatoria_Dependencia.pdf)

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**Banco Santander and its Foundation** have allocated over 2 million euros in five years to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups in the local communities where the entity is present,

through the 'Santander Ayuda' programme, and its twenty-first edition, focused on disability, health, and aging.

On this occasion, the Foundation has received more than 450 applications from organizations from all over Spain wishing to receive support from the programme. The winners receive a grant of 5,000 euros, which, during this crisis, is essential for the development of their programmes and the maintenance of their work in support of the most vulnerable groups.

To date, Santander Ayuda has supported 440 projects that have improved the quality of life of people in vulnerable situations:

- 178 care projects for the disabled.
- 147 projects to fight poverty and social exclusion.
- 76 projects for the promotion of the autonomy of the elderly.
- 38 projects to improve the quality of life of people with serious illnesses.

For **Magdalena Berenguer**, Coordinator of the **Activate Project of the Coopera NGO**, "thanks to this aid we will be able to ensure continuity for the programme for the promotion of active aging in the elderly population of rural areas of La Rioja, with the aim of helping them to regain contact and interaction with other people, which greatly enhances their self-esteem". The *Activate* programme fights against the unwanted loneliness of the elderly and their lack of physical activity and mental stimulation.

In turn, **Elisa Torres Andrés**, **Manager of APCA**, in Alicante, has pointed out that with the aid received, this Association will be able to continue its Project, *Despertando sentidos*, "a therapeutic and rehabilitative programme, where the horse becomes a working tool as an integrating, rehabilitative and re-educational element to positively contribute to the physical, psychological and social development of people with cerebral palsy and related disabilities". The beneficiaries have a level of disability greater than 85%, and receiving this therapy helps them to change their daily lives.

Aspace Navarra, another of the beneficiary organizations, has the primary mission of accompanying people with cerebral palsy during their life itinerary. An important stage of this path is, undeniably, working life, which the organization addresses through services such as the Occupational Centre, the Special Employment Centre and the Job Orientation and Reception Service. **Rafael Olleta Ruiz**, **General Director of Aspace Navarra** talks about the project:

"The Biointegra plant, located in Roncesvalles, is one of the key projects in this itinerary. Together with INTIA, we are committed to the elaboration and transformation of organic dairy products from cow's milk, promoting the employment of people with disabilities in the rural environment. With the collaboration of Fundación Santander, we have created a space called Aula de Divulgación y Formación Biointegra, where people with disabilities who work in the plant are the ones who present the project first-hand to professionals and the public".

**Fátima Dolarea Romero, President of Capacis Foundation**, explains *Sobre ruedas hacia la inserción (On wheels towards insertion)*, a highly innovative project, which "questions existing structures and models, as it breaks with the stereotype about the ability of people who have intellectual disabilities to drive".

Santander Ayuda, which seeks to help associations such as these to continue carrying out their work for society, holds four calls for proposals each year. In each one, the programme selects 20

projects that, in total, receive 400,000 euros. Santander Ayuda has allocated 2.2 million euros to the implementation of 440 projects that have improved the quality of life of more than 260,000 people in vulnerable situations.

The aims of these projects must be to fight poverty and social exclusion, promote the personal autonomy of the elderly, integrate people with disabilities and improve the quality of life of people with serious illnesses. Due to the current situation, priority will be given to projects aimed at alleviating the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on vulnerable groups.

The next call "Disability, health and aging" will be open from 13 Sept - 8 Oct 2021. Interested entities can access the application form on the Foundation's website at <https://www.fundacionbancosantander.com/es/accion-social>

### **Fundación Banco Santander**

At Fundación Banco Santander we strive to contribute to building a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society. We develop social action initiatives to facilitate the progress of vulnerable groups and address the main challenges of the third sector.

The Santander Ayuda Programme aims to support non-profit organizations in the implementation of social projects at the local level that seek to improve the quality of life of people in vulnerable situations.

Santander Social Tech is our programme aimed at supporting the digitalization of the third sector. We want to make it easier for social organizations to take advantage of the

opportunities offered by digital transformation to improve the impact and efficiency of their actions.

Watch Fundación Banco Santander's Social Action video: <https://youtu.be/FaaK0gMO2zY>